Clearance of foreign direct investment

4339. DR. D. VENKATESHWAR RAO: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Prime Minister met the representatives of the Confederation of Indian Industry on 28th April, 1998;

(b) if so, the points emerged in the meeting; and

(c) the steps taken for early clearances of foreign direct investment?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SIKANDER BAKHT): (a) and (b) The Prime Minister addressed the Annual Conference of the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) on 28th April, 1998. Some of the important suggestions which emerged out of the deliberations in the Conference include increase in government investments for infrastructure development; replacement of FERA, better monitoring of infrastructure projects; amendment of Urban Land Ceiling Act to boost housing and construction; to implement policies governing Foreign Direct Investment in such a manner as to make it more transparent, non-discriminatory and non-discretionary and to fix a specific time limit for FIPB decision.

(c) A comprehensive set of guidelines for consideration of FDI proposals by FIPB is in place. The guidelines provide for a transparent and non-discriminatory procedure for processing FDI proposals. The recent steps taken to encourage FDI include further delicensing of industries, permitting FDI up to Rs. 1500 crore for power projects through the automatic approval route and time bound clearances for FDI proposals in general.

Insurance scheme for sick/unviable SSIs

4340. SHRI AHMED PATEL: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to have a comprehensive insurance scheme for the sick and unviable SSI units in the country particularly in the State of Gujarat;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SIKANDER BAKHT): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Non-viable sick small scale industries cannot be revived and as such any insurance scheme may not bring any result for revival. However, for potentially viable sick SSI units, Government has taken various measures for their revival. These include reduced rate of interest for rehabilitation, prompt viability studies/nursing programmes of identified sick units, setting up of cells at important regional centres and Head Offices to deal with sick industrial units and provision of expert staff, including technical personnel to look into the technnical aspects. State Level Inter-institutional Committees (SLIICs) exist under the Chairmanship of Secretary (Industries) of the State Governments for revival of sick units.

लघु उद्योग क्षेत्र की इक्विटी-धारिता

4341. **श्री गोविन्दराम मिरी:** क्या उद्योग मंत्री बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या लघु उद्योग क्षेत्र को 24 प्रतिशत इक्विटी-भागीदारी की अनुमति है;

(ख) यदि हां, तो क्या यह इक्विटी-धारिता वर्तमान औद्योगिक नीति के अनुरूप है;

(ग) क्या लघु उद्योग क्षेत्र द्वारा धनराशियां जुटाने और आधुनिक प्रौद्योगिकी हासिल करने की दृष्टि से इक्विटी का वर्तमान प्रतिशत पर्याप्त है; और

(घ) यदि नहीं, तो इस संबंध में क्या कदम उठाये जा रहे हैं?

उद्योग मंत्री (श्री सिकन्दर बख्त): (क) और (ख) जी, हां।

(ग) और (घ) इक्विटी में साझेदारी 24 प्रतिशत तक सीमित है ताकि बड़े उद्योगों द्वारा प्रतिकूल अधिग्रहण से लघु उद्योगों को बचाया जा सके। साथ ही इक्विटी में 24 प्रतिशत तक का निवेश लघु उद्योगों को निधियां संचित करने आधुनिक प्रौद्योगिकी हासिल करने में और उद्योग के साथ संबद्धता स्थापित करने में सक्षम बनाता है।

जहां उपर्युक्त प्रावधान लघु उद्योगों के लिए निधियों के महत्वपूर्ण स्त्रोत हैं, वहीं दूसरी ओर लघु उद्योग प्रौद्योगिकी उन्नयन और रोजमर्रा के कार्यकलापों के लिए मुख्यत: बैंकों तथा अन्य वित्तीय संस्थाओं से प्राप्त होने वाले ऋणों पर निर्भर हैं जिनके लिए विशिष्ट योजनाएं मौजूद हैं।